

Discovery of the monotypic oriental genus *Mimomalthinus* Pic, 1931 (Coleoptera: Cantharidae) in the Russian Far East

Найдена монотипный ориентальный род *Mimomalthinus* Pic, 1931 (Coleoptera: Cantharidae) на Дальнем Востоке России

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КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: Coleoptera, Cantharidae, Malthininae, новый вид, биогеография, Палеарктический и Ориентальный регионы.

ABSTRACT. *Mimomalthinus shokhrini* sp.n., a new species of the previously monotypic genus of soldier-beetles, is described from Maritime Territory. Provided is a redescription of *Mimomalthinus* Pic, 1931, so far known by one specimen from Northern Vietnam.

РЕЗЮМЕ. *Mimomalthinus shokhrini* sp.n., новый вид из прежде монотипного рода мягкотелок, описывается из Южного Приморья. Приводится переописание рода *Mimomalthinus* Pic, 1931, известного до сих пор по одному экземпляру из Северного Вьетнама.

Introduction

The monotypic genus *Mimomalthinus* Pic, 1931 was created for accommodation of *M. niger* Pic, 1931 from “Tonkin” (Northern Vietnam) [Pic, 1931]. Brancucci [1980] who studied the holotype of *M. niger*, which has so far been the only known *Mimomalthinus* specimen, confirmed the validity of the genus and attributed it to Malthinini (Malthininae). He noted that *Mimomalthinus* is readily separable from other malthinines “par une tête bosselée et ruguleusement ponctuée, par un pronotum quadrangulaire et par des élytres couvrant presque complètement l’abdomen, sur lesquels on peut voir des traces de côtes limitées par une ponctuation grossière et obsoète”. Placed near *Malthinus* Latreille, 1806, *Mimomalthinus* was additionally separated from it “par des hanches postérieures inermes”.

The discovery of a representative of *Mimomalthinus* in material from the Russian Far East, being of certain biogeographic interest in itself, allows redescribing this genus in more detail and defining more accurately its position in the tribe.

The following acronym is used in this paper: ICM — Insect Center, Moscow.

Taxonomy

Mimomalthinus Pic, 1931

Mimomalthinus Pic, 1931: 98

Type species: *M. niger* Pic, 1931:98, by monotypy

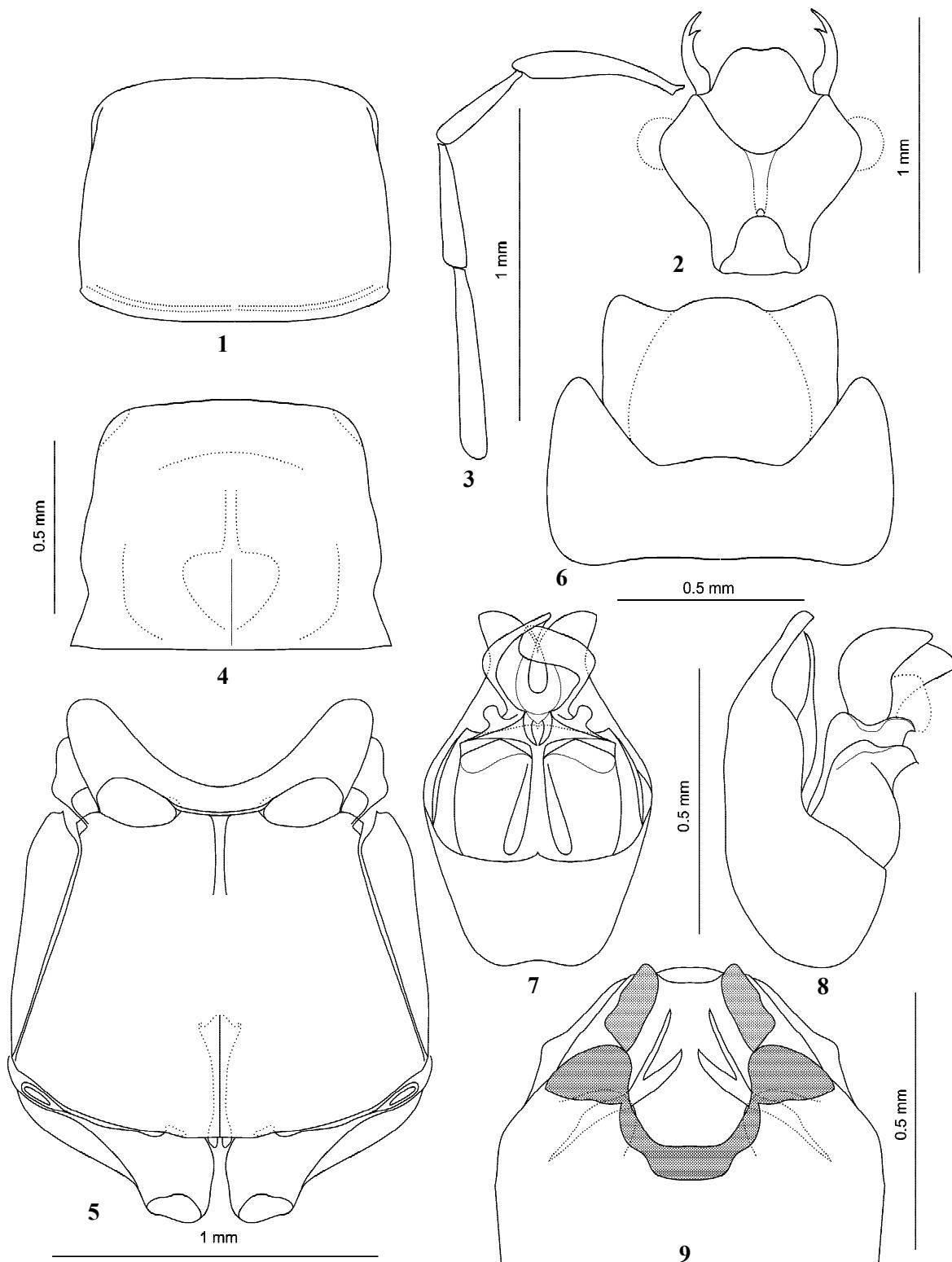
REDESCRIPTION. Male. Alate, slender, elongate, moderately flattened. Head narrowed behind eyes (Fig. 2). Clypeus transverse, rounded anteriorly (Fig. 2). Eyes relatively small, lateral, spherical (Fig. 2). Mandibles with prominent tooth and premolar bulb (Fig. 2). Maxillary palps slender, 4-segmented, with ultimate palpomere pointed distally. Labial palps minute, 3-segmented, with ultimate palpomere pointed distally. Gular sutures non-fused, noticeably separated, almost obsolete in proximal half (Fig. 2). Antenna 11-segmented, long, filiform; scapus long, pedicel only slightly shorter than antennomere 3 (Fig. 3); antennal pubescence short and erect.

Pronotum transverse, rectangular, narrowly margined laterally, with noticeable posterior angles (Figs 1, 4). Prosternum narrow; mesoventrite with preepisterna 2 fused with each other and with mesepisterna (Fig. 5). Mesonotum with scutellum attaining to anterior margin; scutellum with transverse postnotal plate. Elytra elongate, with traces of longitudinal costae. Metanotum transverse, with almost straight scuto-scutellar ridge; allocristae starting near the middle of scutum; scutellum without median suture. Metaventrite transverse, with noticeable paired suture in anterior third; discrimen (metasternal suture) short, present at ca. one posterior third (Fig. 5). Metendosternite small, without lateral arms (Fig. 5). Metathoracic wing with simple Cu vein; cu-a brace absent.

Pro- and mesocoxae long; metacoxae relatively short, narrowly separated (Fig. 5). Legs long and narrow; trochanters short, obliquely connected to femora; femora and tibiae straight, tibial spurs minute and inconspicuous; tarsomeres narrow, all claws simple. Ultimate ventrite dilated and trilobed distally (Fig. 6).

Aedeagus with developed laterophyses; median lobe formed by complex structures (Figs 7–8).

Female. Similar to male, but antennae shorter, not surpassing elytra in length. External female genitalia with non-divided paraproct and separate divided coxites (Fig. 9).



Figs 1–9. Details of *Mimomalthinus* spp.: 1 — *M. niger* Pic, pronotum [after Brancucci, 1980]; 2–9 — *M. shokhrini* sp.n.; 2 — head; 3 — antennomeres 1–4; 4 — pronotum; 5 — meso- and metathorax; 6 — terminal abdominal segments; 7–8 — aedeagus; 9 — external female genitalia; 1–8 — holotype ♂; 9 — paratype ♀; 1, 3–4 — dorsal view; 2, 5–7, 9 — ventral view; 8 — lateral view.

Рис. 1–9. Детали строения *Mimomalthinus* spp.: 1 — *M. niger* Pic, переднеспинка [по Brancucci, 1980]; 2–9 — *M. shokhrini* sp.n.: 2 — голова; 3 — antennomeres 1–4; 4 — переднеспинка; 5 — средне- и заднегрудь; 6 — вершинные сегменты брюшка; 7–8 — эдеагус; 9 — внешние женские гениталии; 1–8 — голотип ♂; 9 — паратип ♀; 1, 3–4 — сверху; 2, 5–7, 9 — снизу; 8 — сбоку.

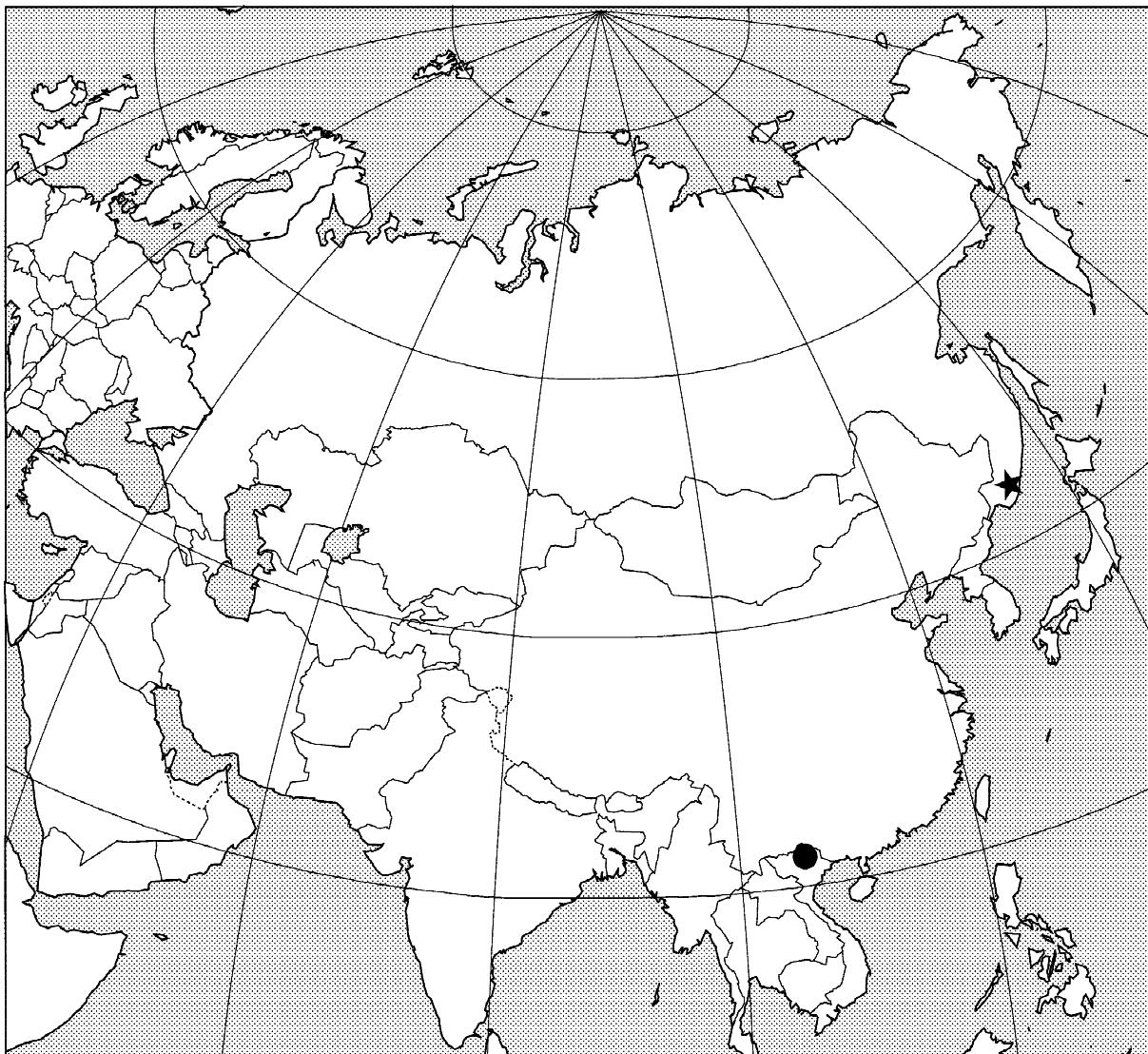


Fig. 10. Disjunctive distribution area of *Mimomalthinus* Pic, 1931.

Рис. 10. Дизъюнктивный ареал *Mimomalthinus* Pic, 1931.

DIAGNOSIS. *Mimomalthinus* may be differentiated from *Malthinus* by the non-fused gular sutures (Fig. 2), rectangular pronotum (Figs 1, 4) and short metacoxae (Fig. 5).

DISTRIBUTION. The disjunctive distribution area of *Mimomalthinus* comprises two isolated and distant localities, in Northern Vietnam and in the Russian Far East (South Maritime Territory) (Fig. 10).

Mimomalthinus shokhrini sp.n. Figs 2–9

MATERIAL: Holotype, ♂ — FE Russia, Primorskij Kr., Lazovskij Reserve, Korpad', 43°15'17"N 134°08'E, 1.VII.2005, V. Shokhrin & Yu. Sundukov leg. (ICM); paratypes: ♀ — FE Russia, Primorskij Kr., Lazovskij Reserve, Proselochnaya, 43°00'34"N 134°07'43"E, 11–12.VII.2005, K. Makarov leg.; ♀ — FE Russia, Primorskij Kr., env. Lazo, 43°22'43"N 133°54'E, 12–13.VII.2005, V. Shokhrin leg. (ICM).

DESCRIPTION. Slender and elongate. Black; coxal apices and trochanters yellowish.

Male. Eyes relatively small (interocular distance ca. 4 times greater than eye radius) (Fig. 2). Antennae long, with two ultimate antennomeres surpassing elytral length, with

antennomere 3 slightly longer than antennomere 2 and ca. 1.4 times shorter than antennomere 4.

Pronotum transverse, 1.3 times wider than long, roughly and densely punctuate, with noticeable anterior and prominent acute posterior angles (Fig. 4). Scutellum triangular, narrowly emarginate at apex.

Elytra long, 3.5 times as long as wide at humeri, parallel-sided, with noticeable traces of longitudinal costae.

Aedeagus with long narrow laterophyses and deeply incised dorsal blade (Figs 7–8).

Female. Similar to male, but antennae shorter, attaining to ca. four fifths of elytra.

Length: 4.7–4.8 mm. Width (humerally): 1.0–1.2 mm.

ETYMOLOGY. *M. shokhrini* sp.n. is named after Valeryi Shokhrin who collected one of the specimens of the type series.

DIAGNOSIS. *M. shokhrini* sp.n. is easily distinguished from *M. niger*, the second known species of the genus described from "Tonkin" (Northern Vietnam), by the uniformly black coloration and more conspicuous posterior pronotal angles [Fig. 4].

Discussion

Brancucci [1980] notes that *Mimomalthinus* is separated from *Malthinus*, in addition to the characters defined above, by the roughly punctuate head and the long elytra, completely covering the abdomen and bearing traces of longitudinal costae. However, the latter characters may also be found in some *Malthinus* proper species, e.g., in the widespread and common European *M. biguttatus* (Linné, 1758). Therefore, they are omitted from the diagnosis. On the other hand, the structure of the male and female genitalia of *Mimomalthinus* that remained unknown until now, is apparently close to that of *Malthinus* (Figs 7–9) and, adding little to segregate the two genera, seems to confirm its position within the Malthinini.

Biogeographically, *Mimomalthinus* is one of the several cantharid genera whose distribution area lies within the Sub-regio Palaearctica [Semenov-Tian-Shanskij, 1936]. However, with the discovery of a representative in the Russian Far East, it becomes the first one to be distributed only in the northern and southern extremities of the subregio, being absent in all of China, Korea and Japan (Fig. 10).

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